

Timely Tidbits ...

Taylor To Receive Grant for Planting Trees

Senator Ray Basham (D-Taylor) has announced that the Department of Natural Resources and Environment (DNRE) and the DTE Energy Foundation Tree Planting Grant Program have awarded \$5,500 in grants to the City of Southgate and the Taylor Conservatory Foundation for planting trees in those communities. The DNRE's Urban and Community Forestry Program has partnered with DTE Energy for the past 14 years to sponsor the program and plant more than 20 million trees in Michigan.

"I'm grateful for DTE and DNRE's dedication to protecting our environment, and hope these projects continue for many years," Basham said. "Creating greener cities will help make our communities cleaner and more vibrant to support recreational activity and economic growth."

Established in 1998 with funding from the DTE Energy Foundation, the grants provide tree-planting assistance to Michigan communities serviced by DTE Energy and its subsidiaries. DTE says the ongoing partnership is a key part of its voluntary participation in the U.S. Department of Energy's Climate Challenge Program, which has established a goal to reduce greenhouse gases by various means, including sequestering carbon through tree planting.

Sign-up Deadline Nears for Citywide Yard Sale

Romulus residents are invited to take part in the annual Citywide Yard Sale, set for Thursday, May 20, through Sunday, May 23. (If two or more of the sale dates are "rained out," the event will be rescheduled for June 3-6.)

To register for a free sale permit – and have your address included in free newspaper ads for the event – visit the Recreation Department (located in the Romulus Athletic Center, 35765 Northline Road) by **Wednesday, April 28.**

Residents registering after the deadline will receive a free permit, but may not be included in any of the free advertisements.

Call 734-941-8665 for info. □

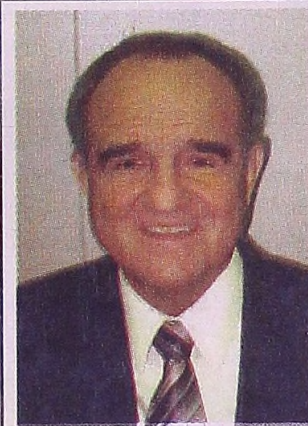
Romulus School Board Candidates Address Issues



Theresa Beard



Tanya Cofield



Kenneth Mientkiewicz



John Thiede

To help voters decide whom they will support in the Romulus Community Schools Board of Education election on Tuesday, May 4, *the little paper* distributed a questionnaire to the five candidates vying for the two available seats. One, Keith Miller, did not participate; another, Tanya Cofield, submitted a letter, instead.

Altogether, the candidates were asked for *specific* responses to four questions, one of which was deliberately general in format to give everyone a chance to focus on the issue of their choice. Personal data was also solicited to give voters some idea about each candidate's background, experience, and knowledge of/dedication to the school district.

The questions were:

1. Everyone understands that a candidate's campaign platform is composed of many planks, but what *single issue* is your *top priority* as you seek election to the Board of Education? Why is it so important to you, and what do you plan to do to promote it, if elected?
2. Do you support the millage proposals on the May 4 ballot? Why or why not?
3. Do you support the Board's recent vote to reconfigure the district by: (a) reducing the district's elementary schools to four by sending Cory students to Wick and Merriman students to Halecreek? (b) moving sixth-graders from the elementary schools to the middle school? Why or why not? If not, what alternate method(s) of saving money should the Board of Education implement in their place?
4. As the Board faces the issue of additional budget cuts in the next four years, in what areas do you believe those cuts should be made? What areas (if any) must be protected from cuts at all costs?

To avoid the appearance of giving any one preferential treatment, the responses are arranged alphabetically by last name.

Theresa Beard

Age: 48 years old

Education: graduate of Romulus High School, Class of 1979; attended Wayne County Community College for business classes and received a certificate in Traffic Management from Henry Ford Community College (Dearborn)

Occupation: homemaker and volunteer

Military service: N/A

Approximate number of hours of volunteer work you performed for the District in the past 12 months:

I have volunteered 50 hours or more at Barth Elementary School, and there are many hours that I have worked doing advocacy work and being the Romulus representative to the Wayne County Parent Advisory Committee, as well as serving as Secretary on the Executive Board of that committee. I am also co-chair of the Romulus Parent/Caregiver Support Group for Families that receive Special Services.

Marital status: married to Ken Beard for 20 years

Children (if any): Kenneth, age 17 years, and Kevin, age 12 years

Number of years as a resident within the school district: I am a lifelong resident of Romulus

Telephone number and/or e-mail address where residents can contact you with questions and concerns:
tkbeard@comcast.net
734-941-7482

Campaign Web site: N/A

QUESTION #1 (top priority)

The main reason I applied for the Board of Education position last November was to give the families of special education students a voice. There was no one currently on the board, to my knowledge, who had experience on special education issues. As

a parent, I have represented Romulus Community Schools at the county and state level in my capacity on the Wayne County Parent Advisory Committee. There are many special education philosophies that can be applied to general education that give all students a free and *appropriate* education in the least restricted environment. Making sure that our school district continues to provide programs and services that benefit *all* children is my mission.

As the graduation requirements have become more stringent, I am afraid that some of our special education students will lose faith and confidence in completing their education. I want families to know there are many opportunities out there to help our students succeed, and they are available for general education students as well as our special education students. I feel that there are many things our educators can learn and strategies that can be implemented such as RTI (Response to Intervention) and evidence-based practices that will assist *all* students in being successful with their education. My goal is for *all* students to be successful.

QUESTION #2 (millage proposals)

Yes, I do support both proposals on the May 4 ballot. These proposals are tax neutral to homeowners, and will not cause an increase in our tax bill. It is critical that these proposals pass in order for our district to maintain itself at this time of financial crisis.

The first proposal (parts one and two) is strictly a continuation of prior approval from the voters, and we are limited to how much we can levy under Michigan state law. In other words, Romulus residents and businesses are already paying this tax. State law requires voter approval of these taxes every ten years. Because they make up about 37% of the school district's yearly revenue, they are essential to our school operations.

continued on page 4

Letters to the Editor

Editor's note: All Letters to the Editor must be signed by the author, and must contain a telephone number where he/she can be reached to verify the letter's authenticity.

School Millage Flyer Features False Information

To the citizens of Romulus:

Romulus Community Schools has recently been informed that a flyer with false and misleading information is being distributed throughout the community. This literature claims that Romulus homeowners will see an increase in their taxes if they approve the school millage proposals on the May 4 ballot. This is *incorrect* information.

Contrary to what was represented in the flyer, the Romulus Board of Education and District Administration are committed to not raising taxes. The District is asking voters to restore and to continue the Non-Homestead and Homestead millages, and to increase the existing sinking fund levy from .75 to 5 mills. The Romulus Board of Education will only increase the sinking fund levy by enough mills to offset a reduction in the homestead levy. Therefore, there will be no increase in taxes to Romulus homeowners.

Please call the District (734-532-1600) or visit our Web site (www.romulus.net) for more information.

Sincerely,

Romulus Community Schools
Administrators & Board of Education

Cemetery Board Says Rules Made with Compassion

Dear Romulus residents:

As some of you may know, in November 2009, Romulus Mayor Alan Lambert appointed a Board of Cemetery Trustees. The purpose of this board is to care for, maintain, and manage the cemetery, with the approval of the Romulus City Council.

We have spent the past several months putting together some rules and regulations for all to follow. This was not easy. Be as-

sured that we thought through each rule with compassion for everyone who has a loved one buried in our historic Romulus Memorial Cemetery.

Our hope is to have a cemetery that shows respect and dignity for all families. What we may like is not always what the family beside us may like. Everyone has their own way to mourn, but we must think of the grave site beside us. Therefore, we have tried to be straight across the cemetery so all grave sites will be maintained equally.

Some objects like rocks and paving blocks, picket fences, etc., must be removed. Other cemeteries do not allow these objects on their grounds. When the grounds are being mowed, the worker trying to avoid these objects sometimes back into costly monuments, causing damage.

Romulus Memorial Cemetery is a Historical Landmark dedicated in 1989. In the future, we would like to look into the restoration of monuments in the original section of the cemetery. There are grants available for this purpose; we hope we qualify.

We must all remember that the cemetery is City-owned property, and it is only our privilege to have a final resting place there so our loved ones may come to visit and reflect. We must look to the future and take steps now to correct what we can. This board hopes to be able to plan for new fencing and gates, and some trees to be planted in the north end so that the whole cemetery will look peaceful. A chapel is also in the future. All of this takes time.

May 15 is city-wide cleanup day, and the cemetery is also part of the cleanup this year. Please help us complete this monumental task. It is going to take all of us working together. Thank you for your cooperation.

Respectfully,

Jan Lemmon, chairperson
Board of Cemetery Trustees
(Genevieve Dugan, Nancy
Champaigne, Tammy McGrane,
and Craig Plank)

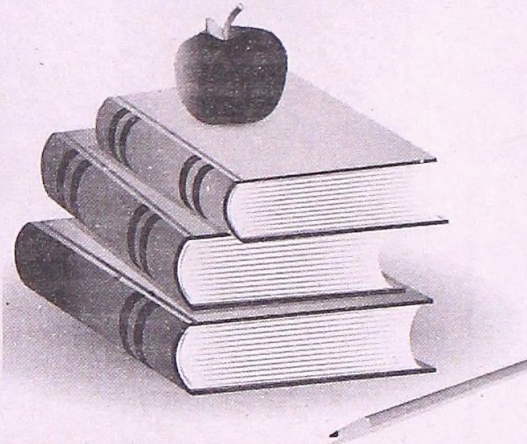
Funderburg, Mientkiewicz Honored

(From left) Romulus Community Schools Board of Education Trustee Danielle Funderburg and Treasurer Kenneth Mientkiewicz were recently recognized for receiving Certified Boardmember Awards (CBAs) from the Michigan Association of School Boards after completing various classes to enhance their performance as local education decision-makers. Funderburg, who was first elected to the Romulus School Board in 2008, garnered the Award of Merit, and Mientkiewicz, who has served eight years on the Board, earned the Master Platinum Award.



**I urge the community to support
John Thiede for Romulus School Board
on Tuesday, May 4th.**

**I also urge you to vote "YES" on both
millage proposals. The millages will not
cause your tax bill to increase.**



John Thiede

**Paid for by
Robert W. McLachlan
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www.rmclachlan.com

the little paper

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The little paper invites individuals and organizations to submit articles and letters that may be of interest to its readers; however, *the little paper* is not responsible for the content of such material, and the opinions and views expressed by the writers do not necessarily reflect the views of the editor or staff. *The little paper* reserves the right to edit any material submitted for publication; however, since material submitted for "Letters to the Editor," "Local Commentary," and similar columns may be printed verbatim, inaccuracies, misspellings, and grammatical errors in these columns may be the responsibility of the writer, and not of the composition department of *the little paper*. All letters, commentaries, and other submissions must be signed, and must include a telephone number so that their authenticity can be verified.

We are sorry, but we cannot guarantee the return of any photograph submitted to us, although we will make every attempt to do so.

The little paper reserves the right to run special advertising rates for each area covered by its distribution without effect on normal contractual rates.

The little paper will furnish "personal" (nonbusiness) advertisements, free of charge, to residents in its distribution area on a "space available" basis.

While every effort is made to insure that advertisement copy is error-free, *the little paper* is not responsible for problems resulting from typographical errors which may appear in any advertisement, and limits its liability to the advertiser to the cost of the ad.

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The Committee to Elect Robert McLachlan
(Romulus Board of Education) is proudly sponsoring an annual

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in honor of Rob's election to the Board on May 5, 2009.



**Wednesday, May 5, 2010
at 7:00 pm**

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Donation: \$20 per person

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3 games of bowling (or watching/partying), shoe rental, light refreshments, and 1 complimentary toast. There will be a cash bar, karaoke entertainment, and prize drawings, as well.

To Obtain Tickets:

Please call Rob at 734-941-3829,
email at rmclachlan917@comcast.net
or visit www.rmclachlan.com

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Robert W. McLachlan, 16268 Wildfox Court, Romulus, MI 48174

Guest Commentary

To Address Budget Crisis, Romulus Is Tightening Belt, Asking for Shared Sacrifices

By Mayor Alan R. Lambert, City of Romulus

Like every community in Michigan, Romulus faces a budget crisis that we must address immediately. Since late last year, we have worked tirelessly to find savings in every corner and squeeze value out of every dollar. Our goal is simple: Protecting vital public services that safeguard lives and property, maintain our families' quality of life, and attract businesses.

Our work is made all the more difficult by an economic crisis that is hammering every community in Michigan.

In Romulus, our revenue base has plunged by nearly 13% in the past year. Many homeowners will likely see smaller upcoming tax bills. On the other hand, the City now has hundreds of thousands of dollars less to pay for vital services like police, fire, and road maintenance.

Late last year, about three dozen Romulus citizens from a broad and diverse background — representing faith, small business, schools, public safety, seniors, and others — met in brainstorming sessions to find the best way forward.

Their number-one recommendation was to cut costs as much as possible. We have started doing so, slashing costs by about \$1,000,000 — or more than 4% of the budget — for the 2010–2011 year. Myself and my department heads are continuously looking for ways to save money.

Here's what else we have done:

- We have saved \$2.1 million since 2005 by restructuring departments, increasing duties, and reforming government, resulting in 25 fewer positions, including five unfilled command positions in the police department, two unfilled positions at the fire department, and others.
- Romulus has increased energy effi-

ciency, saving more than \$706,000 between 2005 and 2009. Romulus is on track to save more than \$3 million in taxpayer money by 2020.

- We have shared and consolidated equipment use with neighboring communities to save thousands of dollars.

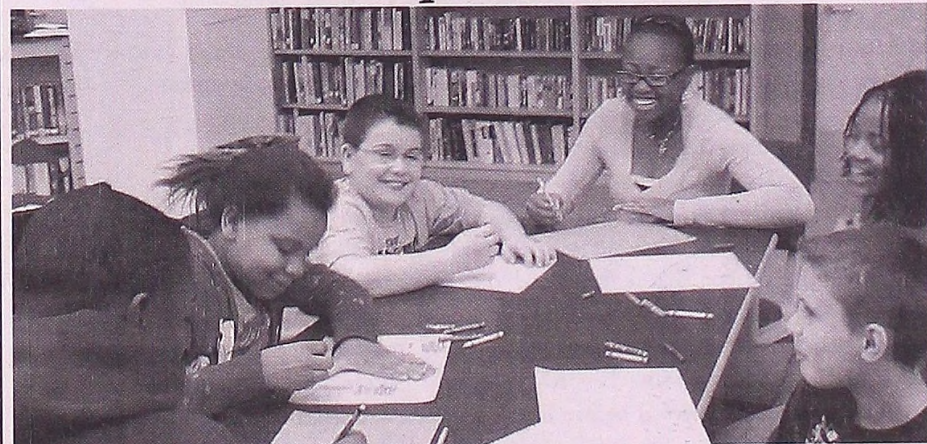
Public services are vital to our families, and Romulus provides quality services at lower costs than neighboring communities. Taylor and Dearborn levy more than 21 and 18 mills, respectively, on homeowners. In contrast, Romulus provides comparable services at only around 10 mills.

Deep as the cuts have been, Romulus must be prepared to make even more sacrifices. That's why I am taking a 5% pay cut and deep reductions in benefits. I have asked my department heads and senior staff to do the same. I am ready to lead by example and share in the sacrifices. I now ask City workers to join me in being part of the solution to protect our community.

Unless we all share in the pain and make sacrifices now, the City will have no choice but to begin cutting jobs. We have already sent out WARN (Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification) notices about this possibility, as we are required to do by law. Romulus is ready to work closely with City employees to minimize the impact, protect as many jobs as possible, and ensure quality service.

For years, Romulus has done all the right things, providing quality services, keeping taxes low, protecting jobs, and even building a modest surplus. Now, the worst economic crisis in generations is bleeding our budget dry. There are no easy fixes. Romulus is prepared to meet every eventual-ity. We must all share in the sacrifices. Our bottom line is protecting public services.

Youth Leadership Team Plans Events



(Clockwise, from left) D'Mario Ellis, Devin Hicks, Zachary Ward, Jazmyn Jones, Kaliah Kilpatrick, and Anthony Denoyer were among Romulus Community Schools Youth Leadership Team members who met to plan events like an Elmer Johnson Park cleanup (April 28), which will include planting flowers in the shape of an "EJ" near the entrance.

School Board Candidates Address Issues

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The second proposal concerns the "sinking fund" that was approved two years ago by the voters. These funds are only to be used for maintenance of the district's facilities, and are used mainly for roofs, parking lots, and building security system upgrades. Unfortunately, our maintenance needs are greater than the approved .75-mill levy will cover. At the time this was approved by Romulus residents, the school board made a commitment that approval of a sinking fund would not increase taxes to homeowners. The board has kept that promise; however, if we allow our district to fall into disrepair, who would want to send their children to our schools, not to mention the greater expense of repairing damage due to non-maintenance in the first place. This proposal asks voters to increase the sinking fund millage by up to 4.25 mills, but the district will only increase the sinking fund levy by an amount needed to offset required reductions to the homestead millage. Thus, the school board is still committed to not raising taxes of Romulus homeowners. Furthermore, these monies that are captured into the sinking fund can not be used for salaries, buyouts, benefits, etc. These monies are for maintenance items of the district only.

As a Romulus resident myself, I think it is important to fund our education system and provide for our children's future. I am also committed to not raising taxes for our Romulus homeowners.

QUESTION #3 (reconfiguration)

I do support the recent reconfiguration of the district. Because I have always been actively involved with our schools, I was appointed to the redesign committee before I became a Board of Education member. I think it is important to know that this redesign committee was made up of parents, educators, and administration from the whole district. This committee met for many weeks, looking at all the options and configurations in order to save the district money and meet the needs of the district as our enrollment is declining without affecting the education of our students. As a committee, we brainstormed many different scenarios and then investigated whether these scenarios would work. The current configuration of repurposing two elementary schools and moving the sixth grade to the middle school was the recommendation of the redesign committee.

As far as approving the recommendation as a board member, I, along with the other board members, asked that we be advised on the process of this transition on a regular basis, and that any major changes in staffing or monetary issues be brought before the board for approval before being implemented.

This was a very hard decision because I am aware of the impact of closing the two elementary schools, but we looked at options to make this move as easy as possible for families by having the students move to other schools within their neighborhoods,

and not across the district.

The decision to move sixth-graders to the middle school, I feel, will give our students many great opportunities to advance themselves in their education that they did not have being in the elementary school setting. I believe in the long run we will see results from this decision.

QUESTION #4 (additional budget cuts)

As we move on through this budget crisis, I feel that all areas always need to be looked at for cuts, from the top down. We can also look at consolidation of services with other districts to save money. I am not talking about privatization of services. I do not necessarily agree with privatization of services. We can look at cost-saving programs that are offered by vendors to save money, also, such as the energy-saving program that the district is currently utilizing.

The most important thing is to maintain the education of our students first. I do not want to see cuts in educational opportunities that advance our students in becoming productive members of society and being successful in their future endeavors. These areas must be protected from cuts. I am sure there are compromises that can be looked at, and I hope we can all work together to get our district through this crisis with the least amount of impact on the students.

Tanya Cofield

To the residents of Romulus:

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank you for your petition support, which allowed me to be officially considered for a position with the Romulus Community Schools Board of Education in the upcoming election.

However, due to unforeseen circumstances (recently being appointed to the position of Interim Director of Parks & Recreation for the City of Romulus), my concern is whether or not I would be able to represent a school board position to the fullest extent that you have come to expect of me.

Please know that I am still very passionately dedicated to our children of Romulus. I will do my best concerning them in any position I hold.

Again, thank you in advance for your support and consideration.

Respectfully yours,
Tanya M. Cofield

Kenneth Mientkiewicz

Age: 67

Education: Romulus High School graduate, 1961; bachelor's and master's degrees from Eastern Michigan University

Occupation: retired educator with 32 years' experience in teaching Business Education and Guidance and Counseling; 20 years' coaching experience in football and baseball

Military service: N/A

continued on page 8

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Taylor To Welcome Dancers from 13 States for Regional Festival

Ballet Americana of Taylor is pleased to announce that the Mid-States Regional Dance America Festival 2010 will be held April 29 through May 1 in Taylor.

The event, "We dance for joy," will attract an estimated 300 dancers and staffs from 13 states to celebrate their achievements and perform works selected by dance adjudication.

Classes and performances will be held at the new Heinz C. Prechter Educational and Performing Arts Center at the Downriver Campus of Wayne County Community College District (21000 Northline Road).

Three performances will be given:

- "The Opening Concert" at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 29. The performance will be shortened, and include the introductions of directors and staff of the visiting companies and the esteemed instructors who will be taking part in the event.
- "The Concert Performance" at 7 p.m. Friday, April 30.
- "The Gala Performance" at 7 p.m. Saturday, May 1.

All of the performances will be open to the public, and tickets will be available at the door.

Gala parties for the dancers, directors, and staff are planned after each evening's performance.

"We are extremely proud of all of our dancers and the tremendous support we've received from the community, our friends, the dancers' families, and local businesses," said Joy Squire, the director of the host company, Taylor's Ballet Americana.

"It has taken so many people to bring this together," she continued. "We're planning to offer them the best time in Michi-

gan. We want to showcase the beautiful venue and the host city of Taylor."

According to Squire, Mid-States Regional Dance America is considered the premiere organization for pre-professional ballet companies. Only those approved by adjudication – those with a high level of classical training – are allowed to become members. Deborah Hadley of the Pacific Northwest Ballet, one of the top ballet instructors in the country, served as adjudicator this year.

Ballet Americana is one of only three Michigan companies that are members – and the only one from Wayne County.

The festival is not a competition, but rather a showcase for performers and an outstanding educational opportunity. Some of the top dance educators in the country will instruct classes in modern dance, jazz, and ballet for guest dancers.

Patricia Squire Lorenz and husband Leif Lorenz of Ballet Americana are the artistic directors.

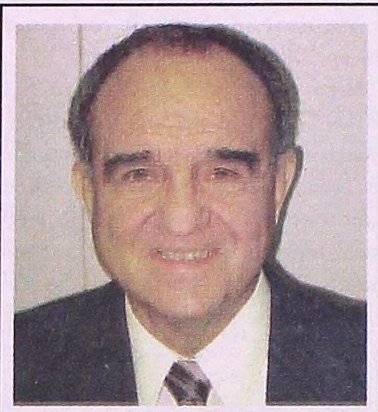
The faculty includes many highly acclaimed instructors, including Joe Istre, Chio Yamata, and David Howard of New York; Marjorie Grundvig, Dennis Marshall, and Robert Moore of Pennsylvania; and Peter Sparling, a dance professor at the University of Michigan.

Five nationally known pianists have been hired to play ballet music for the performances, including Steve Mitchell, a celebrated figure in dance accompaniment around the world.

For more information on Ballet Americana or the Mid-States Regional Dance America Festival, check out the Web site at www.BalletAmericana.org, send e-mail to ballet.americana@comcast.net, or call 734-374-3904.



The talented Ballet Americana dancers will be performing modern dance during three nights of festival performances that are open to the public. – Photo by Mishelle Lamarand

VOTE**Tuesday, May 4, 2010**

Paid for by the Committee to Re-elect Ken Mientkiewicz

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City of Taylor Working Hard To Get Accurate Count for Census 2010



A public service announcement starring about 60 Taylor residents has aired on the City's cable TV channel. The commercial, filmed and edited in a partnership with the City of Romulus, cost the City nothing to create.

About 60 Taylor residents took part in a public service announcement urging everyone to fill out and return their 2010 Census form.

The commercial, which aired periodically on the City's cable TV channel on Comcast and WOW, is one of the innovative promotional efforts presented on a shoestring budget by the City of Taylor Complete Count Committee.

The U.S. population is counted every 10 years, and this year's Census Day was April 1. Census officials are continuing to accept questionnaires by mail. On May 1, Census takers will begin visiting homes of those who did not return a form.

According to the Census Bureau, more than \$1,000 per person, over each of the next 10 years, is at stake. Funds are provided to communities for public safety, schools,

job creation, health-care facilities, and other services. They are especially crucial to municipalities struggling to balance budgets.

The Census also is used to determine congressional seats and assure proper district representation in all levels of government.

Taylor formed its committee last year, and has been working ever since to get the word out with minimal funds, promotional items, and ideas provided by the Bureau.



Census promotional funds were used to purchase about 20 banners that were placed on light poles by Steve Gorgon (left) and John Mudreyko of Taylor's Recreation Department.

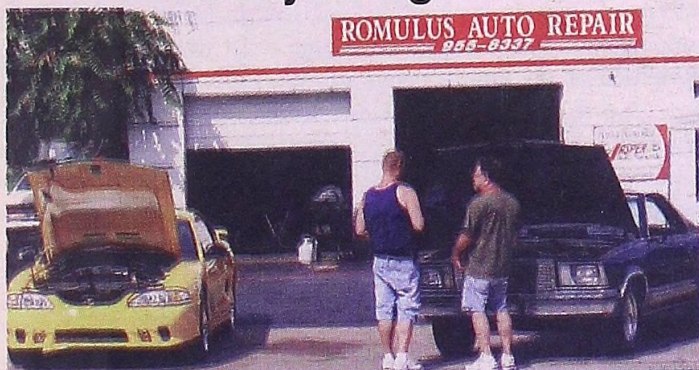
"The City of Taylor has been exemplary in its efforts and partnership with the U.S. Census Bureau," said Bureau Partnership Specialist Brian White, a Taylor native and graduate of Kennedy High School.

continued on page 11

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School Board Candidates Address Issues

continued from page 4

Approximate number of hours of

volunteer work you performed for the District in the past 12 months:

50+ hours doing the following: (1) representing Romulus Community Schools on the Wayne County Association of School Boards (WCASB); (2) serving as a member and Treasurer for the WCASB Executive Board; (3) holding meetings with State Legislators regarding school funding; (4) serving as a member of the Redesign and Transition committees; and (5) serving on student hearing panels

Marital status: married to Bonnie

Children (if any): Ken Jr., 41; Jennifer, 35; Kimberly, 31; and Steven, 27 (all are Romulus High School graduates and have earned bachelor's degrees)

Number of years as a resident within the school district: 67

Telephone number and/or e-mail

address where residents can contact you with questions and concerns: 734-941-4345

Campaign Web site: N/A

QUESTION #1 (top priority)

My top priority is school financing, which has two aspects.

One is fiscal responsibility. As a school board, we must operate our district on a balanced budget. Therefore, during my recent term as a board member, we have reduced our budget spending by over \$10 million, and have still maintained excellent educational programs for our students. The school board continues to focus on student achievement and to prepare our students for more education beyond high school.

The second aspect of school financing is acquiring adequate revenue. We need to secure adequate funding from Lansing to improve and maintain our programs and school buildings. Our district has lost over \$2 million this school year because of the funding reductions from Lansing. More reductions will more than likely occur again next school year because of our legislators' reluctance to deal with correcting the flaws in the funding system.

The school funding issue is extremely important because the board cannot continue to operate a strong, viable district with insufficient funds and State mandates to do more with less. I have attended legislative meetings in Lansing to contact, meet with, and discuss this problem with legislators to impress upon them the negative effects that the inadequate funding is having on our school children. This current funding trend will destroy our schools.

QUESTION #2 (millage proposals)

I strongly support both ballot proposals. I firmly believe in securing the financial support our schools need without increasing taxes for our homeowners. Proposal 1 provides 37% of our district's annual revenue and is a *renewal* of the homestead and non-homestead taxes that are already being paid by residents and businesses in Romulus.

Therefore, voter approval will *not* raise taxes for homeowners in Romulus. Michigan law requires that voters renew these mileages at least every ten years.

The second proposal refers to the sinking fund and is also very important. Sinking fund dollars are the only tax dollars that do *not* go directly to Lansing, but remain here in Romulus for building maintenance to provide safe, secure facilities for our students. All other taxes go to Lansing and are then distributed throughout the entire state. Romulus gets back less than we send to Lansing. It is important that we keep the greatest amount of Romulus tax dollars here in our district as possible.

Although the sinking fund proposal increases the authorization to levy up to 5 mills, our entire board has assured the community that we will only authorize enough of an increase to make up for any decrease to our homestead tax. This means our district will have the funds to operate our schools, and taxes to Romulus homeowners will *not* go up.

QUESTION #3 (reconfiguration)

I definitely support the redesign plan. Due to the fact that we have fewer students, we must make adjustments and operate our district in a fiscally responsible manner. These changes allow us to do the best possible job of educating our students and using all our resources efficiently. We will add value to our students programs without spending more money.

(a) Merging our elementary schools will actually enable the district to spend additional money on essential programs and help keep class sizes low.

(b) Moving our sixth-graders to Romulus Middle School will improve student access to programs like band and foreign language. Students will also have opportunities to accelerate their learning because they can now take higher level courses such as algebra 1. I represent the board of education on the district's transition team, and am working hard to make sure that all of our sixth-graders' needs will be addressed.

QUESTION #4 (additional budget cuts)

As a school board member, I have worked to make sure that whatever cuts are necessary to balance our budget stay as far away from children as possible. If our children are to be successful, they must have adequate transportation to and from school; they must have access to proper instructional materials and technology. Extracurricular activities like drama, music, and athletics also are important to our children. While I hope that we never have to compromise any of these essential programs, I am committed to seeking community input so that if the board is forced to make reductions in any of these areas, the reductions are made with community support.

For other cost cutting areas, we may need to reevaluate our bus replacement and maintenance equipment schedules, review our energy program for additional energy cuts, and investigate multi-district bulk purchasing for classroom and cleaning supplies.

John Thiede

Age: 44

Education: Romulus High School graduate, 1983; attended Grand Valley State University; attended other schools for professional license for work (instructor/medic)

Occupation: Romulus Fire Department lieutenant

Military service: (no response)

Approximate number of hours of volunteer work you performed for the District in the past 12 months: (approximately 25 hours altogether) As part of the improv comedy group, Project 2, I have donated my time to perform at events to raise funds for the Romulus Band Boosters and Romulus High School senior Ryan McLachlan's automated external defibrillators (AEDs) project. I have also, during my off-duty hours, been a part of Fire Department charity sports events played against the teachers at Halecreek Elementary, Merriman Elementary, and the Middle School to raise money for the Romulus Goodfellows.

Marital status: married to Allison Thiede

Children (if any): Natalie (age 4)

Number of years as a resident within the school district: 44

Telephone number and/or e-mail address where residents can contact you with questions and concerns: ff4126@aol.com
734-740-1194

Campaign Web site: none

QUESTION #1 (top priority)

(a) If I had to pick just one single issue, it would be the lack of focus on educational excellence. I believe only 42% of students passed the MEAP test. Also, there is no credible evaluation process in place for the teachers. From my understanding, consulting firms have been working on this for two years without implementation of any process for evaluation.

(b) I'd actively engage in discussion and promote an open, transparent dialogue at meetings, and I'd disapprove of any "side-bar" meetings. It is important not to stay

in the "status-quo" as the Superintendent directs.

I'd also like to implement student and parent meetings, other than the weekly board meeting. I believe it is vital to get their input on matters without the three-minute time limit.

QUESTION #2 (millage proposals)

(a) Yes, I support the millage. I've read many different articles on the pros and cons of this issue. I believe it is necessary to continue to operate. We cannot lose buildings and programs such as band and athletics, as well as transportation.

(b) The sinking fund is vital for the repairs and continued maintenance of our current facilities, and it will free up general fund money to use in the classroom.

QUESTION #3 (reconfiguration)

(a) No one likes to see the closing of any buildings. I'd need to actually sit on the Board to make a crucial decision on this matter. I would need to have all the information available, and I'd need the involvement of the parents of all students affected before making an informed decision.

(b) Most true middle schools contain the sixth-grade class. I believe this is a sound educational move. The sixth-graders could start to earn high school credits, as well as get involved in art, band, and other programs that may not be available in elementary school. The sixth-graders will be closer in age to their peers and will be closer to their appropriate maturity. This would give them room to expand to the next level.

QUESTION #4 (additional budget cuts)

(a) I believe it is no surprise that funding and declining enrollment (due to perceived safety and discipline issues) is a major issue we face. In these trying times, everyone will need to chip in and contribute. That should include the top. I do not agree with the transportation allowance for the Superintendent. It is needless spending. The annual salary of this position is that of two to three blue collar workers. I believe that if you can't pay for your own gas, then you shouldn't take the job. The Superintendent was brought here for his alleged expertise in curriculum, so it's hard to understand why we have an additional curriculum

continued on page 10

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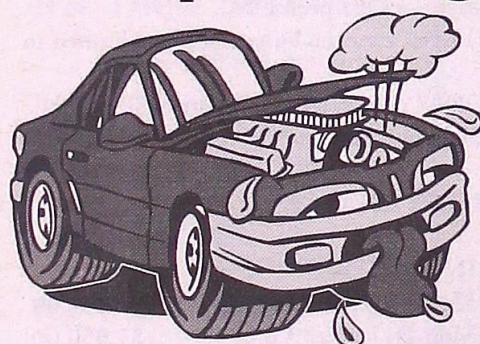


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Community Calendar

To place information in our next issue's Community Calendar, mail it to *the little paper* at P.O. Box 74038, Romulus, MI 48174-0038; FAX it to 734-992-2052; or e-mail it to thelittlepaper@comcast.net no later than 5 p.m. on Friday, April 30.

Huron Township

St. Paul's Invites Public to Spring Fling
St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church will hold its annual Spring Fling at the Huron Sportsman Club (19835 Sterling Street) on Saturday, May 15.

The event – sponsored by the St. Paul Men's Club – includes dinner, an open bar for beer and wine, and a performance by Rennie Kaufmann. Doors open at 6 p.m., with dinner served at 7 p.m.

Tickets are \$25 per person.

For information, call 734-753-9048.

Romulus

Band Boosters To Hold Spaghetti Dinner

The Romulus Band Boosters' annual Scholarship Spaghetti Dinner benefit will be held in the cafeteria at Romulus High School (9650 Wayne Road) on Wednesday, April 28, from 6 to 8 p.m. A performance by the Romulus High School Jazz Band will make the event two treats in one.

Tickets are \$7; children 2 and under eat free.

For information, call Christina Lefler at 734-955-1662.

Children's Crafts at the Library

Youngsters are invited to make their parents homemade gifts from the heart at these one-day craft programs, which will be held at the Romulus Public Library (11121 Wayne Road) at 10:30 a.m. on the following dates:

- *Mother's Day* (Saturday, May 8), and
- *Father's Day* (Friday, June 18).

Although the programs are free, pre-registration is required.

For information, call 734-942-7589.

Volunteers Sought for Clean Sweep

Operation Clean Sweep – an annual volunteer cleanup program presented by the City of Romulus – will be held on Saturday,

May 15. The program will begin at 9 a.m. with the ceremonial planting of a Liberty Tree at the Romulus Veterans Memorial (on Wayne Road south of Goddard, in front of the Public Library). Afterward, participants are invited to meet at the Romulus Senior Center to fortify themselves with bagels, donuts, and coffee before picking up assignments, rubbish bags, and gloves, or to spend part of the day cleaning up areas in and around their own neighborhood.

For information, call Mayor Alan Lambert's office: 734-942-7571.

Rummage Sale at Halecreek Elementary

Halecreek Elementary (16200 Harrison Road) will hold an indoor rummage sale fund-raiser from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Friday, May 21, and Saturday, May 22.

Donations for the event – a benefit for the school – are welcome! Drop off items any weekday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Romulus and Taylor

Letter Carriers To Conduct Food Drive

On May 8, the National Association of Letter Carriers will conduct its 18th annual food drive – the largest one-day food drive in the nation. Residents are asked to place nonperishable food items near their mailboxes for their letter carrier to pick up during his/her normal route.

All food will be collected and sorted by the letter carriers, loaded on a Gleaners Food Bank truck, and transported to the Fish and Loaves Community Food Pantry in Taylor. Volunteers at the pantry then distribute the food to hungry people in Romulus, Taylor, and four other surrounding communities.

Taylor

Scrapbook Cover Workshop

Bring your scrapbook and a yard of fabric (your choice of pattern), and learn how to personalize your scrapbook's cover. The workshop will be held at the Taylor Recreation Center (22805 Goddard Road) on Thursday, May 6, from 6 to 8 p.m.

Cost is \$7. Preregistration is required. Call 734-374-3906 for information. ☐

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School Board Candidates Address Issues

continued from page 8

director. Additionally, City workers are taking wage and benefit concessions. I am facing this in my line of work. Some school employee assistance in health care costs should be looked at so that we can keep everyone working. There are lower level employees who have taken on additional

responsibilities with no increase in pay, and I believe that should be no different with the administrative team. Romulus schools used to be a beacon for education, and we need to get back to that place.

(b) Academic programs should not be cut. These programs help our students secure scholarships. These vital scholarships

will help take some financial burden off of families. If we can find a way to increase academic programs in our schools (i.e., foreign language in elementary schools), I believe it may attract some residents to re-enroll their children in Romulus schools. Also, the Board needs to help secure funds for programs such as band and robotics so

students in those programs have the same opportunity for advancement out of high school as students in athletics. Additionally, we need to preserve valuable district employees. We will be a successful district because of our employees. We can not afford to lose employees who deal with our students on a daily basis. □

PUBLIC NOTICE – CITY OF ROMULUS

(11111 South Wayne Road • Romulus, MI 48174)

Romulus Memorial Cemetery Board of Trustees – Rules and Regulations

(resolution #10-107, effective 04/22/2010)

- The purchase of interment rights per plot(s) within the Romulus Memorial Cemetery shall be conducted through the Clerk's Office. If at the time of purchase, the purchaser is a Romulus resident, or interment for a Romulus resident with verifiable form of identification such as driver's licenses, voter's registration or state identification, shall be at a price of \$500.00, and as modified and approved by the Romulus City Council from time to time. If the purchase is by or is for a non-resident of Romulus at the time of purchase, shall be at the price of \$ 1,000.00, and as modified and approved by the Romulus City Council from time to time. These interment rights shall be reflected in a certificate which is not a deed to the land, but provides the holder with the privilege of a final resting place in the Romulus Memorial Cemetery.
- All purchases shall be payable at the City of Romulus Treasurer's Office by either cash or check payable to the City of Romulus.
- Anyone purchasing a grave site shall be required to sign an acknowledgment of these Rules and Regulations.
- All new burials shall be marked by the City of Romulus with a temporary one time only marker at the head of the grave site.
- Foundation installation for grave markers (headstones):
 - Shall be 42 inches deep. This can be two pylons 42 inches deep with a 4 inch top, or 42 inch solid cement.
 - All arrangements will be made through the Clerk's Office. All installations must be completed by a licensed professional contractor under the supervision of the Romulus City Building Department. An inspection and permit fee will be charged, and this cost shall be set as modified and approved by Romulus City Council from time to time.
 - Shall be at least two (2) inches wider and two (2) inches longer than the marker so that a two (2) inch border is around the marker on all sides.
 - Shall be poured as to make it two (2) inches above the ground and placed at the head of the grave site.
- All grave markers (monuments) shall be delivered to the Cemetery and placed on the appropriate foundation by a Representative of the Monument Company or funeral home from which it was ordered. Military markers are to be delivered to the Department of Public Works. The Department of Public Works address being 12600 Wayne Road is to be used for the delivery of government markers if the funeral director does not provide these services.
- All interments of human remains shall require a vault. The vault shall be furnished by the funeral director and shall be of concrete or steel and delivered to the cemetery at least by 9:00 a.m. the day of the funeral or be charged any additional Department of Public Works costs incurred.
- Cemetery Hours:
The cemetery will be open as follows:
Summer: March 1st–October 31st – 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Winter: November 1st–March 1st – 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
- Only floral arrangements, wreaths and grave blankets are allowed in the Cemetery.
- All floral arrangements, which include wreaths and grave blankets, must be removed between March 1st and April 15th, otherwise, they will be discarded as provided for hereinafter.
- Planted flowers are allowed in a one (1) foot area in front of the monument. Nothing shall be planted behind or at the sides of the monuments. This is the aisleway. If not maintained properly, they will be removed and discarded as provided for hereinafter.
- All grave sites must be maintained by the person planting the flowers. All artificial flowers must be in an unbreakable vase.
- Objects placed upon grave sites which are out of harmony with the general rules set forth herein and those left on grave sites contrary to the rules herein are prohibited. Those in violation shall be given notice with a red tag placed on the grave site. Persons who have properly registered for such grave site with name and address shall receive written notice. Objects in violation of these rules not voluntarily removed within 30 days will be subject to removal. Those wishing to appeal the violation notice may do so by filing an appeal in writing through the City Clerk's Office within thirty (30) days from the date of the tag. Such decision will be by a majority of the Cemetery Board sitting and shall be final.
- Any violation of the Rules and Regulations of the Romulus Memorial Cemetery shall be treated as civil infractions. The first offense is subject to a fine of \$50.00 plus court cost; a second offense is subject to a fine of \$200.00 plus court cost or as subsequently set by City Council by resolution from time to time.
- Picket fences, rocks, trees or shrubbery planting are prohibited. Anyone who has planted these items will be given two (2) weeks red tag notice to remove them. If such red tagged items are not removed voluntarily, they are subject to removal. Please contact the Clerk's Office for shrubbery removal. This must be done by the Department of Public Works.
- Vegetable planting, Halloween and other Holiday decorations, yard ornaments, empty shepherd's hooks, balloons and figurines are prohibited.
- Funeral flowers will be removed one (1) week after the Funeral and are limited to four (4) arrangements.
- Trees and shrubbery of any kind may ONLY be planted by Department of Public Works and are prohibited on individual grave sites.

AMENDED CEMETERY CHARGES:

LOT SIZE	LOT PRICE	INTERMENT	
Single	\$ 500.00	Mon-Fri – before 3 p.m.	\$ 850.00
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Non-Residents	\$1,000.00		
Babies	\$ 500.00	Mon-Fri – before 3 p.m.	\$ 250.00
		Mon-Fri – after 3 p.m.	\$ 450.00
		Saturday & Holidays	\$ 450.00
Cremation	\$ 500.00		
	(if plot is needed)		

FOUNDATIONS:

Will be installed by a local licensed contractor. Please contact the Romulus City Clerk's Office for a list of contractors that meet the specifications set forth by the Romulus City Council and the Board of Cemetery Trustees.

\$200.00 will be added to the interment cost of cremation vault if over the standard size of twelve inches (12) wide by twelve inches (12) high.

All of the prices above are subject to change by resolution of the City of Romulus Council from time to time.

Taylor Working To Get Accurate Census Count

continued from page 7

"Very early on, they pulled together civic and community leaders to lead this effort, and, as a result, Taylor has been above the national average for mail response rate."

The Census commercial actually cost the City nothing to create. It was filmed in the basement of Oakwood Heritage Hospital in Taylor in a partnership between City officials from Taylor and Romulus. Taylor provided the script and direction; Romulus provided the videotaping and editing.

"This has truly been a community-wide effort, and we hope it pays off in an accurate Census count," said David Gorgon, Taylor's public information director. "Everyone in the public service announcement was from Taylor – which was important. And our partnership with our neighbors from Romulus was so significant. Romulus has the equipment and expertise to create video programming."

Various segments of the population are represented in the commercial: Taylor police officers and firefighters, seniors, school children from Holland Elementary School, health-care workers from Oakwood Heritage, families, recreation, and businesses.

Speaking in the PSA are Rick Flood and Michele McNeely of the Complete Count Committee.

Committee members have had active roles in the effort. They've spread the Census word at the Taylor Rotary's Turn Off

the Violence event, the City's Fall Fest, and other public events. A presence was established at the Downriver Campus of Wayne County Community College District, located in Taylor. The Taylor Ministerial Fellowship agreed to distribute flyers telling their congregations about the importance of the Census. Managers of the city's apartment complexes also are on board.

Pro-Census messages have appeared on City water bills and City employee paychecks. About 20 banners were hoisted on street light poles in major intersections and along Goddard Road by the City's Department of Golf, Parks and Recreation.

The public service announcement can be viewed on the Census page on the City Web site, www.cityoftaylor.com/census, and there is a Taylor Census fan page on the social networking site Facebook.

On April 10, the City hosted the "Portrait of America" Census road tour at Heritage Park. Census workers distributed promotional items while City volunteers passed out hot dogs, chips, and water. McKinley Properties paid for the food and drinks.

To be good partners with the Census Bureau, Taylor officials have provided space to train Census workers, and continue to provide locations for workers to answer residents' questions about the 2010 form.

Throughout the campaign, Questionnaire Assistance Centers were set up at City Hall, the William Ford Senior Activity Center, the Taylor Recreation Center, the Department of Public Works, and American House Southland on Eureka Road.

"The Census is important because so many important decisions over the next decade will be based on population counts of 2010," said Taylor Mayor Jeffrey P. Lamarand, a government teacher before he was elected Mayor. "You have to remember the historical significance of the Census, which allows us to search for family genealogical information. A hundred years from now, people might be able to trace their roots to us because great Census records are kept. The historical impact is in the past, present, and future."

For more information on the Census 2010 effort in Taylor, visit the web site: www.cityoftaylor.com/census. □

Seniors Commentary

Romulus To Grow Seniors Vegetable Garden

By Maria Lambert, director, Romulus Downtown Development Authority

Romulus citizens can now help the community grow, literally.

The Romulus Downtown Development Authority is pleased to work with the City of Romulus, local citizens, and volunteers to build our community's first garden for seniors. We're inviting the community and volunteers to join this fun effort.

The garden will be located just west of the Senior Center on Bibbins Street across from the Romulus Towers senior housing complex.

The first 10 Romulus seniors to sign up will get a 3-foot-by-8-foot raised garden box to plant vegetables or flowers.

Applicants must sign up in person at the Senior Center by April 30. Boxes will be ready for planting on May 15. Gardeners are asked to be there at 1:00 p.m. for photos, and to bring their own tools.

If you miss out this year, please apply again next year because we want to make sure everyone gets a chance to grow their own garden at the Senior Center.

Here are some helpful tips for successful gardening:

The raised garden boxes have been filled with commercial soil, but you may want to mix generous amounts of organic humus to improve the soil structure and drainage.

Plan before you plant. Here's a general outline of how much a family of two should grow:

- beets – one row, 5 to 7 feet long
- broccoli, brussels sprouts, and cabbage – 5 to 7 plants
- carrots – one row, 10 to 15 feet long
- lettuce – one row, 5 to 7 feet long
- spinach – one row 5 to 10 feet long
- tomatoes – 5 to 7 plants

Pumpkins, squash, melons, and other widespread plants may not be suitable for the boxes.

Taller vegetables like peas and beans should be placed at the north end to prevent shading of the smaller crops. In the center of the vegetable garden area, plant the medium-sized crops such as cabbage, cauliflower, or tomatoes, and in the very southern end plant the lower growing plants such as radishes, carrots, beets, lettuce, and onions. These boxes have been aligned north-south to take full advantage of the sun, since most gardens need at least 5 to 8 hours of full sun. Ideally, plants in a raised bed garden are spaced just far enough apart to avoid crowding, but close enough to shade weeds. A layout sketch can help you better plan your garden.

Here are some additional tips: Add about 4 inches of organic mulch, such as straw or hay, after your crop has been planted. Stake taller plants, such as tomatoes or beans. Water your plants often, and remember that raised beds tend to dry more quickly than ground-level beds. It is also better to soak the beds, instead of sprinkling the plants, to avoid disease. Keep your bed weed free, and if you want to feed your plant, please use only natural plant food. And please do not use harsh chemicals or pesticides.

We ask all gardeners to clean out their vegetable beds by November 7 to avoid any charges.

This will be the Senior Garden's first year. We are very excited to offer this to our citizens, and we look forward to hearing from the green thumbs in Romulus about how we can make this project a success.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact the DDA by calling 734-955-4533. □

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Obituary

Gloria Glaab

Gloria Glaab of Romulus, Michigan, passed away on April 19, 2010, at the age of 79.

Gloria was an active member of St. Aloysius Catholic Church (Romulus), and enjoyed world travel, gardening, and spending time with her family.

Surviving Gloria are a son, John "Jack" Glaab, Jr.; 6 daughters, Jeanette (Francis) Birmingham, Patricia (George) Walls, Joanne (Joseph) Cafarelli, Mary (Rick) Collins, Jennifer (Rex) Boatright, and Anita

Glaab; and 9 grandchildren, Lynn, Ryan, Jennifer, Julie, Eric, Patricia, John, Grace, and Alex.

Among those who preceded her in passing were her husband, John Glaab, Sr., and a son, Christopher Glaab.

A funeral mass will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, April 23, at St. Aloysius Church, with prayers preceding at 9:45 a.m. at Crane Funeral Home (Romulus). Interment will be at Michigan Memorial Park (Flat Rock). □

In keeping with our commitment to community service, *the little paper* publishes personal and obituary notices, free of charge, for residents of Romulus, Taylor, Belleville, and New Boston. E-mail thelittlepaper@comcast.net for information.

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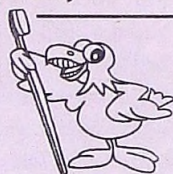
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